



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fuel Assistance Available for Needy Families -- Applications for fuel being accepted through Nov. 13 --

Richmond – Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program are being accepted through Monday, Nov. 13, at local departments of social services.

"As the weather steadily becomes colder, some Virginians may face a dilemma between buying food or medication and paying their heating bill," said Commissioner Anthony Conyers of the Virginia Department of Social Services. "We want to remind lower-income households and members of at-risk groups, including the elderly and disabled, that there is still time to apply for Fuel Assistance," he said.

Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program intended to assist households primarily in meeting their home energy needs. To qualify for Fuel Assistance, a one-person household's maximum gross monthly income cannot exceed \$1,062. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income level is \$2,167.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The Fuel Assistance program was created in 1979 and each year serves approximately 110,000 households across the Commonwealth. For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, visit VDSS' web site at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.html>.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (www.dss.virginia.gov) Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with Federal and State law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

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